

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 7, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 15, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 17, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 142

Introduced by Assembly Member Oropeza

(Principal ~~coauthor: Senator Escutia~~ *coauthors: Senators Escutia and Lowenthal*)

April 6, 2006

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 142—Relative to Marco Antonio Firebaugh *and the Museum of Latin American Art*.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 142, as amended, Oropeza. *The Marco Antonio Firebaugh Interchange and the Museum of Latin American Art*.

This measure would designate the Interstate 5 and Interstate 710 interchange in Los Angeles County as the Marco Antonio Firebaugh Interchange, *and would also designate the presence of the Museum of Latin American Art at specified highway exits on State Highway Routes 405, 605, and 710*.

This measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing ~~this~~ *these* special ~~designation~~ *designations* and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh, at the age of 39 years,
- 2 was running for the California State Senate when he succumbed

1 to health ailments on March 21, 2006, at the University of
2 California, Los Angeles Medical Center; and

3 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh was born to humble
4 beginnings in Tijuana, Mexico on October 13, 1966, and
5 emigrated to the United States when he was a young boy; and

6 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh worked hard to pay his
7 own way through school and earned his bachelor of arts degree in
8 political science from the University of California, Berkeley and
9 a law degree from the UCLA School of Law; and

10 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh was the first in his
11 family to attend college and was committed to the notion that
12 free universal public education is the cornerstone of our
13 democratic society and worked hard to improve educational
14 opportunities for all California students; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2005, the City of Lynwood named their newest
16 school the “Marco Antonio Firebaugh High School” as a result of
17 Mr. Firebaugh’s record of achievement in providing educational
18 opportunities for all students; and

19 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh was elected to the
20 California State Assembly at the young age of 32 years; and

21 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh served in the
22 California State Assembly from 1998 to 2004, representing the
23 50th Assembly District located in southeast Los Angeles County,
24 *including the cities of Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Cudahy,*
25 *Huntington Park, Maywood, South Gate, and Vernon, as well as*
26 *the unincorporated communities of East Los Angeles,*
27 *Florence-Graham, and Walnut Park; and*

28 WHEREAS, During his tenure in the Assembly, Marco
29 Antonio Firebaugh was recognized for his impressive legislative
30 and advocacy record on behalf of California’s working families
31 and their children, establishing him as a leader and role model in
32 the Latino community; and

33 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh demonstrated
34 outstanding leadership in introducing legislation aimed at
35 improving the lives of immigrants and low-income families
36 including undocumented immigrants who come to California to
37 work and give their children a better life; and

38 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh recognized the
39 importance of environmental justice issues and authored air
40 quality legislation that provides funding for the state’s most

1 important air emissions reductions programs and that ensures that
2 state funding be targeted to low-income communities that are
3 most severely impacted by air pollution; and

4 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh recognized the need to
5 protect the health of the most vulnerable members of our
6 state—children. As a result, he authored legislation funding a
7 mobile asthma treatment clinic known as a Breathmobile to
8 provide free screenings and treatment for school children in
9 southeast Los Angeles and fought hard in the Legislature to make
10 California the first state to outlaw smoking in a vehicle carrying
11 young children to protect them from the hazards created by
12 breathing secondhand smoke; and

13 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh understood that
14 education is the great equalizer; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2002, Marco Antonio Firebaugh won a great
16 victory with the passage of Assembly Bill 540, landmark
17 legislation allowing undocumented California high school
18 students to pursue a college education and pay in-state tuition
19 fees; and

20 WHEREAS, From 2002 to 2004, Marco Antonio Firebaugh
21 served as Chairman of the California Latino Legislative Caucus
22 where he was responsible for managing the development of the
23 Latino Caucus’ annual “Agenda for California’s Working
24 Families” as a policy document that focuses on issues affecting
25 California’s diverse population; and

26 WHEREAS, Under Marco Antonio Firebaugh’s stewardship,
27 the Latino Caucus grew from 22 to 27 members; and

28 WHEREAS, While chairing the Latino Caucus, Marco
29 Antonio Firebaugh led the effort to appoint more qualified
30 Latinos and Latinas to high-level positions in state government,
31 including the appointment of only the second Latino to serve on
32 the California Supreme Court, the first Latina to serve as
33 Chancellor of a University of California campus, and two
34 additional Latino Presidents at the California State University at
35 Fresno and Sacramento; and

36 WHEREAS, Because of his effectiveness both as a
37 policymaker and political leader, Marco Antonio Firebaugh was
38 appointed Majority Floor Leader in 2002; and

39 WHEREAS, Alongside former Speaker Herb J. Wesson, Jr.,
40 Marco Antonio Firebaugh served as Floor Leader from 2002 to

1 2004, making him the highest ranking Latino in the Assembly
2 and one of the chief negotiators for Assembly Democrats; and

3 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh also served six years
4 on the State Allocation Board, which provides funding for public
5 school construction and modernization; and

6 WHEREAS, During his tenure on the State Allocation Board,
7 California invested more than \$16 billion in the construction and
8 modernization of public schools, making it the largest investment
9 in public school improvements in the history of the state; and

10 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh was a visiting
11 Professor and Policy Fellow at the UCLA School of Medicine,
12 Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture; and

13 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh is survived by his two
14 children, Ariana and Nicolas Firebaugh, and his mother, Carmen
15 Rose Garcia, and many beloved family members and friends;
16 ~~now, therefore, be it and~~

17 *WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh was a champion of arts*
18 *and culture and a long-time supporter and friend of the Museum*
19 *of Latin American Art (MoLAA); and*

20 *WHEREAS, In 2002, Marco Antonio Firebaugh was*
21 *instrumental in helping the museum secure a \$500,000 state*
22 *grant to support California's cultural and historical resources,*
23 *which was used by the museum to develop its Latin American*
24 *sculpture garden and amphitheater, which is now used by*
25 *thousands of public school children, arts and theater groups, and*
26 *community organizations throughout southern California; and*

27 *WHEREAS, The MoLAA in Long Beach, California, was*
28 *founded by Dr. Robert Gumbiner in November 1996. It is the*
29 *only museum in the western United States that exclusively*
30 *features contemporary Latin American art. Through the*
31 *utilization of its permanent collection, traveling exhibitions, and*
32 *programs, MoLAA educates a diverse southern California*
33 *audience about contemporary Latin American art; and*

34 *WHEREAS, The MoLAA is located in the newly developing*
35 *East Village Arts District of Long Beach, California, and*
36 *between 1913 and 1918 the site that the museum now occupies*
37 *was the home of Balboa Amusement Producing Company, then*
38 *the world's most productive and innovative silent film studio.*
39 *Before there was a Hollywood, Balboa was the king of the silver*
40 *screen, producing as much as 20,000 feet of negative film a*

1 week. The building currently being renovated as the MoLAA's
2 Entertainment/Education/Special Event venue may have been
3 part of the old Balboa film studio; and

4 WHEREAS, The MoLAA's exhibition galleries, administrative
5 offices, and stores are housed in what was once a roller skating
6 rink known as the Hippodrome. Built in the late 1920s after the
7 film studios were gone, the Hippodrome was a haven for skaters
8 for four decades. The building then served as a senior health
9 center for fifteen years. The high vaulted ceilings and beautiful
10 wooden floors were perfectly suited for the Hippodrome's final
11 metamorphosis into the Museum of Latin American Art; and

12 WHEREAS, The MoLAA's mission is to educate the public
13 about contemporary Latin American fine art by artists who have
14 lived and worked in Latin America since World War II, through
15 the presentation of a significant permanent collection, dynamic
16 exhibitions, and related cultural and educational programs; and

17 WHEREAS, Marco Antonio Firebaugh served as the Honorary
18 Curator of the MoLAA throughout 2004, choosing a work of art
19 from the museum's permanent collection by Mexican artist
20 Leopoldo Mendez called "The Torches." Mr. Firebaugh believed
21 that this work, that depicts workers marching in defense of their
22 rights, embodied the values of equality, justice, and solidarity. In
23 Mr. Firebaugh's words, "this work embodied the fundamental
24 aspect of every great effort to expand and protect human rights
25 from the 1968 walkout by thousands Latino high school students
26 in East Los Angeles, to the Chicano Moratorium March against
27 the Vietnam War and the historic table grape boycott in 1970 led
28 by civil rights leader César Chávez"; and

29 WHEREAS, In conjunction with California State University
30 Long Beach, the Museum held a special tribute to Marco Antonio
31 Firebaugh on June 3rd, 2006; now, therefore, be it

32 RESOLVED, That the following highway exits should be
33 designated noting the presence of the Museum of Latin American
34 Art (MoLAA): between the Willow Street and Pacific Coast
35 Highway exits on State Highway Route 710 south; on the
36 Shoemaker Bridge at the Broadway exit on State Highway Route
37 710 south; at the 22 W. 7th Street exit on State Highway Route
38 405 north; and at the 7th Street exit on State Highway Route 605
39 north; and be it further

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby designates the
3 Interstate 5 and Interstate 710 interchange in the County of Los
4 Angeles as the “Marco Antonio Firebaugh Interchange”; and be
5 it further

6 *Resolved,* That the Department of Transportation is requested
7 to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the
8 signing requirements for the state highway system, showing ~~this~~
9 ~~these~~ special ~~designation~~ *designations* and, upon receiving
10 donations from nonstate sources covering the cost, to erect those
11 signs; and be it further

12 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
13 copies of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and
14 to the author for appropriate distribution.